



## News Release

### UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

#### 910<sup>TH</sup> Airlift Wing (AFRC)

Office of Public Affairs  
Youngstown Air Reserve Station  
3976 King Graves Rd., Unit 12  
Vienna, Ohio 44473-5912

Commercial (330) 609-1236 or 1364  
Fax (330) 609-1022  
DSN 346-1236  
Homepage: <http://www.afrc.af.mil/910aw>  
<mailto:bryan.ripple@youngstown.af.mil>

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

"Youngstown Air Reserve Station sets record in 2003"

DATE: January 12, 2004

NUMBER: 04-01-01

YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION, OHIO – 2003 proved to be a year of pride, commitment and sacrifice for the citizen airmen, sailors and marines serving at the airbase in Vienna. The station's primary purpose is to facilitate training of reservists and to be ready to serve anytime, anywhere. These men and women come from all walks of life and occupations such as postal workers, doctors, GM employees, policemen, firemen, and people from many other professional backgrounds who span not only the Mahoning Valley, but much of Northeastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania.

Last year, home station Air Force Reserve aircrew members flew nearly every day of the week to include training weekends aboard the 12 C-130H Hercules aircraft assigned to the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. These aircrew members continue practicing local low-level flying operations as well as other types of flying training. Over 670 "touch and go sorties" were flown for pilot proficiency training on the 9,000-foot runway shared with the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport, as well as 1,092 practice landings on the 3,500-foot assault landing strip owned by the 910<sup>th</sup>.

Last February and March, 243 aircrew members were activated along with maintenance and support personnel, deploying overseas to Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The deployed reservists flew in support of Operations Joint Forge, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom through August logging an unprecedented 2,319 flying hours, airlifting more than 2,959 tons (5,918,000 lbs) of cargo and 6,425 passengers on 808 missions throughout the European, Mediterranean, and Middle Eastern theaters. The six deployed aircraft, nine aircrew effort consistently flew sorties into more than 20 countries. These included hazardous combat missions into northern Iraq, humanitarian relief missions for earthquake victims in Algeria, and noncombatant evacuation from war-torn Liberia in Operation Shining Express. The unit was recognized in April by United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) commander-in-chief General Gregory Martin, and presented with the coveted USAFE Commander's Award for Excellence.

After a brief redeployment home in July, 757<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron aircrews again deployed overseas to the war torn Middle East, this time to Oman and Kuwait in late August. Until they returned home in December, they logged an additional record 770 hours, carrying 10,744 passengers and more than 526 tons (1,059,240 lbs) of cargo on 483 missions into Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Kuwait.

The Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport provides an outstanding training location for the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing C-130s as well as other non-Youngstown based military C-130 cargo planes and KC-135 air refueling planes from Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units spanning across the United States. The recent \$40 million airport improvement project, completed by the airport, provides an airfield perfectly suited to meet the demands of the 910<sup>th</sup> fleet and the other types of aviation activity using the airport. In addition, since the airspace is not congested, and is readily available for military air operations at the airport, the 910<sup>th</sup> and other units highly regard the airport as an important training location. The 910<sup>th</sup> maintains a close working relationship with the airport and supports it with a full-time fire, crash and rescue force from the 910<sup>th</sup> Fire Department.

Training missions also included joint operations with Army, Navy, and Marine Corps paratroop jumpers anywhere from Fort Bragg, N.C. on the East coast to North Island Naval Air Station, San Diego, Calif., on the West coast. In addition, the 910<sup>th</sup> provided a capability for disease control during mosquito and sand flea aerial spray missions in the Southeastern United States.

Last year, men and women with specialties such as aircraft maintenance, security, transportation, civil engineering, intelligence, avionics, public affairs, culinary arts, and supply have deployed in support of contingency operations all over the world to places such as Kuwait, Turkey, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Iraq and many other countries. These missions required the reservists to be away from their families and full-time jobs for a combined 76,873 days to support their active duty Air Force counterparts as part of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force.

Without the tremendous support reservists from the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing receive from their families and employers, this incredible amount of contribution to our nation's defense would not be possible.

In addition to regularly scheduled training missions, the men and women of the 910<sup>th</sup> continue to respond to the terrorist attacks of 9-11, flying homeland defense missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom with last month's activation of an additional 238 aircrew from the 773<sup>rd</sup> and 757<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadrons, maintenance and support personnel of the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. These combined activations in 2003 set a record for the largest activation and deployment in 910<sup>th</sup> history with nearly 500 of the 1,400 reservists assigned to the 910<sup>th</sup> now on active duty.

Also, the 19 full-time and 272 drilling reservists assigned to the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center on base contributed to the nation's defense by mobilizing 42 reservists in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. These marines and sailors deployed to Kuwait, Iraq and Kosovo regions as well as for homeland security duties. The Naval and Marine Corps reservists continually engage in community outreach civil engineering projects in the local community as well as conducting on-going training with Air Force Reservists such as weapons qualification, heavy equipment operation and Chemical/Biological Warfare protection training.

The 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing's economic impact infuses over \$95 million (up \$9 million since 2002) into the local economy. The base continues to run an environmentally friendly operation utilizing a nearly \$2 million de-icing pad project that allows for the proper control of de-icing fluid runoff during de-icing operations. An indoor hazardous materials storage and recycling facility was built for nearly \$600,000 by a local contractor as a drop-off point and collection center at the air station. This is in addition to several million dollars in other military construction projects completed over the last few years here at Youngstown Air Reserve Station.

The pride, attitude, and integrity of the over 2,000 local airmen, sailors, marines, civilians, and contractors of the Youngstown Air Reserve Station lead the way in our country's defense.

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Reserves will be nearly 40% of Iraq Force USA Today, January 8, 2004 P.5

The number of reservists called to active duty jumped more than 10,000 in the past week as part of the replacement of forces in Iraq and Kuwait, the Pentagon said Wednesday. National Guard and reserve troops will be nearly 40% of the total of 110,000 troops, compared with about 20% to 25% now. The replacements have been told they will spend up to 12 months in Iraq.